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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,811	06/24/2003	David V. Boland	2442.001	1082
7590	01/05/2006		EXAMINER	
B. Craig Killough Barnwell Whaley Patterson & Helms, LLC P.O. Drawer H Charleston, SC 29402			MAYES, DIONNE WALLS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1731	

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/602,811	BOLAND, DAVID V.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Dionne Walls Mayes	1731		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 11 and 12 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,3-10 and 13-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In claim 13, Applicant has recited "wherein said air eliminator does not communicate with an interior of said bad"; however, it does not appear that Applicant has support for such recitation in the written disclosure, nor does it seem reasonable that such limitation can be fully supported from the instant drawings.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. In claim 13, Applicant has recited "no material amount of additional air enters said enclosed space". The term "material" in the claim is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "material" is not defined by the claim, and the

specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by either Krein (US. Pat. No. 5,059,084) or LaFleur (US. Pat. No. 5,794,670).

Krein or LaFleur discloses all that is recited in the claims (See entirety of each document and figs).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1, 3-10, 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garland (US. Pat. No. 5,765,339) in view of LaFleur (US. Pat. No. 5,794,670).

Garland discloses a container that receives and stores soiled items, said container 14 having a bag received therein, and comprising a closure mechanism which would serve to apply pressure to the to separate an upper portion of said bag from a

lower portion (see figs. 15-27). Garland may not specifically disclose an air eliminator that communicates with a space that is between the bag and the container. However, LaFleur does teach that when flexible bags are used to line rigid containers, and such liners need to be filled with materials, it is common for the liner to pull away from the container walls which can cause problems (see col. 1, lines 12-27). Therefore, LaFleur teaches that air may be removed in the space between the liner and the container, such that the liner remains in contact with the container and conforms to the interior container configuration (see col. 1, lines 47-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the container of Garland to include the air elimination system disclosed in LaFleur in order to reduce the likelihood of liner failure while used in the container as taught in LaFleur.

Regarding claim 3, it follows that the air eliminator of LaFleur, employed in Garland, would communicate with a space that is between the lower portion of the bag in the container since the goal is to ensure that the bag will not pull away from the container walls, and the part of the bag which is filled with material (i.e. the lower part) is obviously the portion of the bag that tends to do so.

Regarding claims 4-5, 7-9, 14-16, 18-19, it is apparent from the reading of the disclosure and drawings that these limitations have been met.

Regarding claims 6 and 17, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have fabricated the bag/liner of the combined references of a flame retardant material since this is a standard characteristic of materials in many arts because of fire-safety concerns.

Regarding claims 10 and 20, it follows that one having ordinary skill in the art would have structured the closing mechanisms so that they are "spring biased" since such types of closures are conventional in many arts.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 11-12 are allowed.

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dionne Walls Mayes whose telephone number is (571) 272-1195. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 7AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven P. Griffin can be reached on (571) 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dionne Walls Mayes
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731

December 30, 2005